Losses of textile mills under NTC

57. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the loses of mills run by NTC have come down during the last financial year,

(b) if so, to what extent,

(c) whether the losses have come down due to the selling of surplus land or by achieving the target of production, and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir During the year 1989-90, the NTC Mills incurred net losses amounting to Rs 206 66 crores as compared to Rs 311 66 crores during 1988-89, a reduction of about 34 per cent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir The reduction in losses has not been due to sale of surplus land The improvement has been made possible by the strategy pursued by the Corporation which covers, inter alia, pruning of uneconomic activities, improving utilisation of viable and economic activities, increasing yarn production, product-upgradation, increasing price realisation, rationalisation of labour and effecting economies in purchase of cotton etc.

Review of Export-Import policy

58 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to review the current Export-Import policy to remove the lacunae,

(b) if so, what are the details of the changes proposed to be made in the existing Export-Import policy, and

(c) to what extent the proposed changes are likely to boost exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c) Review of Import and Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures are taken, from time to time, inter-alia with a view to support exports and to restrict non-essential imports While reviewing the policy, every effort is being made to encourage rapid and sustained export growth

Revitalisation of export promotion councils

59 PROF CHANDRESH P THAKUR Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) what has been the concrete contributions of different Export Promotion Councils in the last three years,

(b) whether there are any plans to revitalise their working, and

(c) what steps have been taken to make them achievement oriented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (c) The Export Promotion Councils are service Organisation to help the exporters by providing them market intelligence, organising delegations, study teams, Seminars etc and also by Organising participation in Trade Fairs/Exhibitions. The Seminars and Workshops organised by Export Promotion Councils include programmes for educating exporters on policies and procedures announced by Government from time to time and also for making recommendations to concerned agencies for resolving the problems that arise in promotion of exports The activities of the Export Promotion Councils are reviewed at

various levels from time to time The exports from the country have gone up from around Rs 10895 crores in 1985-86 to about Rs 27681 crores during 1989-90, is a clear indication of the active role played by the Councils along with other promotional agencies along with other promotional agencies.

Foreign Exchange crisis

60. PROF CHANDRESH P. THAKUR· Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to place a White Paper before Parliament on the state of Indian economy,

(b) what steps are being contemplated to overcome the foreign exchange crisis, and

(c) what are the new initiatives offered for tapping NRI funds for Indian development fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) With regard to the foreign exchange crisis the Government has initiated a number of measures which include promotion of exports and curtailment of inessential imports Attempts are also being made to augment foreign exchange earnings and capital inflow including accelerated disbursements of committed external assistance

(c) Government from time to time reviews the existing policies and schemes with a view to making NRI investment regime more attractive and less cumbersome State Bank of India has issued two series of NRI Bonds on non-repatriable basis. An inter departmental committee has been set up for speedy decision making on suggestions/issues pertaining to NRI investments

Gains to India in GATT Negotiations

61 PROF CHANDRESH P. THAKUR· Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the gains to India in GATT negotiations in the last two years,

(b) what are the prospects ahead, and

(c) what new strategies are being adopted unilaterally or bilaterally in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) to (c) An assessment of the gains from the Urguay Round can only be made after the conclusion of the negotiations As the negotiations are still not concluded it would be premature to make an assessment just now. However, if our negotiating objectives are met we expect the following gains;

(i) Increased export earnings in Textiles and Clothing and agriculture sector;

(ii) Stability and predictability in international trade through amplification and improved multilateral rules;

(iii) Increase in remittance through re-location of our labour services in industrialized countries.

India has been consulting with its major trading partners and developing countries bilaterally and pluri-laterally to explore areas of commonality and to explain India's stand on various issues.

NABARD Schemes for Agricultural Development in North Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh

62 PROF. CHANDRESH P THAKUR· Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what plans NABARD has for development of infrastructure facility for agricultural development in North Bihar, North Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh;